

REMARKS

Enclosed is an Abstract on a separate sheet of paper as required by M.P.E.P. §608.01(b). In addition, a new title has been provided and the specification has been amended to include subheadings as required by Rule 77 and to delete references to "claims." Also enclosed is a proposed drawing correction to FIG. 1 and a replacement drawing sheet.

Regarding the objection to the drawings for failure to show "devices for supplying air," this is the valve device 11 shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, which, as described on page 6, line 27 to page 7, line 2, is for supplying air to the distributing chambers 8a and 8b.

Claims 1-9 have been cancelled and replaced by new claims 14-21, which correspond to claims 1, 2 and 4-9 respectively. In rewriting claim 1 as new claim 14, the claim was placed in more conventional U.S. format by positively reciting each of the elements of the device and by deleting numerical references to the drawings. The subject matter of claim 3 was also included in the claim. Claim 2, now claim 15, was rewritten to avoid the objection to claim 2 and its rejection under §112, second paragraph and claims 4-9, now claims 16-21, were rewritten to avoid improper multiple dependency.

Since the Examiner believed claim 3 contained allowable subject matter, which is now a part of main claim 14, it is believed claim 14 and claims 15-21 dependent therefrom are now allowable. Such action is therefore requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER^{LLP}

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 19, 2004

By: 

Arthur S. Garrett

Reg. No. 20,338

Attachments: Replacement Sheet(s) - one drawing sheet - Fig. 1
[One Annotated Sheet(s) showing changes]

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FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

ABSTRACT

A whirlpool bathtub and a valve device for such a tub. The tub has a molded tub part and at least one, preferably two removable, circular bottom elements which match recesses in the tub part. The bottom elements can be attached to the tub part by means of central screws. From an external pump device, air is supplied to the valve device and on to preferably two defined chambers in the tub, each of which is composed of a recess with an associated bottom element. Each bottom element has apertures for the supply of air from the chambers to the water in the bathtub. The valve device simultaneously constitutes a bottom valve for draining water from the tub to a plug hole. The tub is easy to keep clean, and may in addition be manufactured in a simple and cost-effective manner